



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

JUNE 2021

VOL 49 NO 01

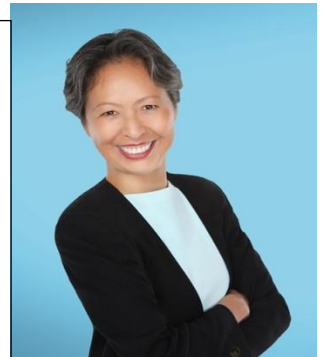


Welcome from Interim Chief of Police Julian Harvey

For the past year and a half, like every public agency in the country we have unfortunately had to modify the delivery of most of our Police Department services. Our front counters were closed, meetings were relegated to Zoom and, since our Retired Senior Volunteers were not in the building, we were unable to coordinate our newsletter and our vital community meetings. Good news: We are back to business as usual! We look forward to seeing each of you at our Block meetings and other neighborhood events across the city. We cannot police this city as effectively as we need to without your continued support, engagement and assistance. THANK YOU for your commitment to Huntington Beach – you are making a difference. I look forward to seeing everyone again soon. Welcome Back!

Welcome from HBNW Board President Nobu Harada

Welcome to our supporters and new readers, our volunteers and community members! We are so excited to be resuming our volunteer activities and being able to get back out into our communities again. The 'downtime' has allowed us to regroup, strengthen our structure and refocus our programs. We have come out stronger and livelier on the other side of the pandemic and ready to tackle the challenges in our neighborhoods together!



Welcome from Community Relations Specialist Virginia Clara

After temporarily pausing our volunteer programs, neighborhood watch newsletters, and community events, we are excited to resume our activities. Most importantly, we are looking forward to welcoming back our volunteers! This year we plan to host our National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 3rd. In addition, we are looking forward to hosting our Huntington Beach Police Department Open House this fall. For details on upcoming events, please visit our social media platforms. We hope to see your family at our upcoming events!



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About NW Block Meetings

There are several ways that HBPD and HBNeighborhood Watch can assist residents in our city dealing with quality-of-life issues. In our pre-covid meetings, holiday crimes, vehicle theft, and homelessness issues had been addressed. As we begin to open to our own “normal” routines, it’s time to renew and to remind you how Neighborhood Watch can help your community.

If you would like to start a new Neighborhood Watch Program or arrange a Neighborhood Watch Block meeting for your neighborhood, please call 714-5365245 or contact us through our Community Relations Specialist and NW Board Advisor Virginia Clara.

Please, do not be afraid to contact the Police Department. While it is good to get to know your neighbors online or in person, if no one reports a crime, your whole community is impacted. Some contact numbers are listed below. Go ahead and add these to your refrigerator magnet so they’re handy when you need them! You can also visit the department in person for more detailed information on your specific situation.

CUT AND PASTE

Police Emergency	911	Information Desk	714 960-8843
Non-Emergency/Dispatch	714 960-8825	Graffiti Hotline	714 960-8861
POLICE Business Line	714 960-8811	Community Relations	714 536-5245
Vacation house Checks	714 374-1507	Neighborhood Watch	714 536-5245
Website	www.hbpd.org	E-Mail	vclara@hbpd.org

We are updating our database of active Neighborhood Watch groups! Please alert the HBPD Community Liaison Team at 714-536-5245 if your group is still active.

HUNTINGTON BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Executive Board of Directors & Executive Committee/Speakers Bureau - Nobu Stillwell, **President** - Carole Grant, **Vice President** - Barbara Rier, **Secretary** - Laura McDonald, **Treasurer** –

Members at Large– Dellamarie Bonomo, Mary Beth Czarnecki, Jim Dwyer, Carl and Alison Jablonski, **(Editors)**) Jeanie Petrocella, Claudette Ruzicka, Christine Fairchild



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Lost and Found at HBPD

Missing something? A list of items found or turned in to the Police Department is available on our website & updated on a monthly basis. Property will be held for 90 days.

If you have a reason to believe that our department has an item that belongs to you, please call the **Property & Evidence Unit at 714-536-5944**. They will schedule an appointment for you to identify the item and a time for you to pick it up.

City of Huntington Beach, CA - Property Unit Found Items

www.huntingtonbeachca.gov

Safety Tips for ATM Use

Using an ATM machine can be an easy & convenient tool to withdraw money instantly. However, using an ATM machine can also compromise the safety & security of your debit card information. With an increasing number of debit & credit card theft/fraud incidents, it is imperative that you are taking precautionary measures to keep your information safe.

SAFETY TIPS FOR ATM USE



1. AVOID INSERTING YOUR CARD INTO THE ATM
2. USE RFID CHIP ON CARD TO TAP (IF AVAILABLE)
3. USE APPLE/GOOGLE PAY ON SMARTPHONE TO TAP (ADD BANK ACCOUNT)
4. COVER PIN PAD WHEN ENTERING PIN #
5. WIGGLE CARD SLOT TO CHECK FOR SKIMMER
6. EXAMINE PIN PAD FOR LARGER KEYS AND UNUSUAL THICKNESS
7. LOOK AROUND FOR HIDDEN CAMERAS (CHECK FOR PINHOLES & PULL ON UNUSUAL PIECES)

Huntington Beach



Police Department



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DWD – DOG WATCHER WATCH

By: Carl Jablonski & Tessa!



DWW – Dog Walker Watch Did you know that by simply walking your pooch, you can contribute to your Neighborhood Watch Program? For my first assignment and contribution to this newsletter, I will check out what Huntington Beach already offers and bring them to your attention. Being a daily “walker” myself, Tessa and I are always observant and do our best to keep our neighborhood safe! I hope this article alerts you to a simple way you can help your Neighborhood Watch Program too!

What is Dog Walker Watch? Dog Walker Watch is an awareness program sponsored by the National Association Town Watch (NATW). The program is coordinated by the City of Huntington Beach and Huntington Beach Police Department to encourage neighbors in assisting local law enforcement in ongoing community-policing efforts.

Why Dog Walker Watch? Participate during your regular walk. Connect with other neighbors. Take an active approach in preventing crime in your neighborhood. Learn to recognize suspicious activity



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How to Get Involved: - Recognize suspicious activity

Remember that people are not suspicious, behavior is suspicious.

Examples of suspicious activity include Vehicles parked for a prolonged period in an undesignated area and a vehicle traveling at abnormally low or high speed without lights during evening or early morning hours.

Reporting crime safely: If you do not feel safe calling the police on the spot, online reporting is available. Wait until you are around the corner or not in the eyesight of the suspect. It is important to not encounter the suspect, because you never know if they are armed or aggressive. It is always safer to call for an officer.

Calling 9-1-1: Know your location! Be aware of major cross streets and direction. Clarify what exactly is occurring. Be sure to provide all necessary details including description of the subject (height, weight, clothes, tattoos, gender, etc.) Remain calm, speak clearly, and let the dispatcher ask you questions. You do not need to speak to an Officer to report a crime.

Become a civic citizen and engage with your city by downloading the official app. With features like: Government, Beach Information, Experience HB, City News, Upcoming Events, Services, and Map, you'll find it easier than ever to stay connected with the City of Huntington Beach with just a few taps on your mobile device.

Government, Beach Information, and Experience HB sections on the app allow you to have all the important contact and destination information in your city with the click of a button. Learn about your city's history, demographics, and elected officials. Find parks, facilities, and points-of-interest along with information, phone numbers, maps, and directions. Stay informed and up to date on the latest happenings and upcoming events through the City News and Upcoming Events sections. Download your city's app and start engaging with your city on a more meaningful level. Become a civic citizen today!

https://huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/community_services/dog-walker-watch-program.cfm



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A Message from our President

This Newsletter is the first in over 18 months to be published due to Covid restrictions in 2020. Along with sincere and heartfelt gratitude to our readers and supporters of Neighborhood Watch Programs, I would also like to thank the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Assembly volunteers who have spent numerous hours folding, labeling, and preparing the newsletters for distribution every 3 months (every month before we faced budget cuts in 2019), arriving early in the morning and often working well past lunch time. It is this group of men and women who made possible for this Newsletter to be distributed for over 48 years since its first publication.

There are about 40 volunteers that make up the Huntington Beach Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Assembly. Average age being somewhere in the mid 70's, most of us are retired or have very flexible work schedules, like myself. Many of the volunteers are also members of the other 2 volunteer groups through the Huntington Beach Police Department: the RSVPS (Retired Senior Volunteers in Police Services) and the VIPS (Volunteers in Police Services). There are few volunteers who have been tirelessly putting together our Newsletters for over a couple of decades. We are perhaps the least 'decorated' of the 3 volunteer groups. We do not wear uniforms, matching polos or ride around in cars with city insignia. We simply get together every 3 months (every month before the budget cuts) to industriously sit, fold, adhere mailing labels and stickers as we chat with our neighbors and friends. This is where I was first introduced to the volunteer programs with our Police Department and, in my humble opinion, discovered one of the greatest secrets to why Huntington Beach is still a very safe, and desirable community with a small-town feel despite its large population of over 200,000.

Through these volunteers, I've learned that there was a large migration to Huntington Beach in the 60's, tripling the population of approximately 50,000 in 1964 to over 150,000 by 1976. Many of these migrants were young families wishing to get away from the large city and raise their children in more suburban surroundings, better schools, and safer neighborhoods. That profound wish for their children became the foundation for the neighborhoods and communities throughout the city and the national concept of the Neighborhood Watch that rose to prominence in the late 60's was easily adapted in the city. We can still spot many old Neighborhood Watch signs in our streets. Old signs can be replaced for a reduced cost of new ones. Please contact our **Community Liaison, Virginia Clara at (714) 536-5245** for more details. The young parents are



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the ones who actively participate in keeping our neighborhoods safe! Not only have they succeeded, but they have also continued to pass their wisdom down through involvement in our communities. And there are those who are still actively involved through our volunteer programs, like my lovely 90-year-old neighbor!

I am grateful to be living in this wonderful and safe city, and to the men and women of the past who started the Neighborhood Watch Programs; the men and women in uniforms who everyday put their lives on the line for us; and our first responders who are involved in many ways in keeping our neighborhoods safe. Thank you everyone and have a safe and happy Summer!

Catalytic Converter Prevention Information

In the last year, catalytic converter thefts have increased throughout the nation. The City of Huntington Beach is not safe from these statistics. To prevent catalytic converter thefts, there are a few tips that can be followed. In addition, it is encouraged that you report any sort of theft to the Huntington Beach Police Department by calling the non-emergency phone number.

1. Park in a safe and secure area where a stranger underneath a vehicle will be instantly suspicious.
2. Park in a well-lit area making the would-be thief easy to identify.
3. Add a sensor that will alert owners when a thief attempts to steal a catalytic converter.
4. Park in a garage when possible.
5. Engrave your catalytic converter with the car owner's license number.
6. Call 9-1-1 to report any suspicious activity such as someone underneath a parked vehicle.

Check our social media platforms for an upcoming Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention event in the month of July!

<https://www.facebook.com/HuntingtonBeachPolice>

https://www.instagram.com/huntington_beach_police/

Reopening and Community Programs

For the past year, our Police Department front lobby has been closed to the public and services had been moved online. Beginning on June 15, following the state reopening plan, the Huntington Beach Police Department lobby will once again re-open for the public.

Front desk lobby hours: Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 6:00pm.

In addition to re-opening the front lobby, we are also looking forward to coordinating our annual community events this year. The National Night Out event is programmed for the first Tuesday in August; location is pending. Our HBPD Open House is pending confirmation, but make sure to follow our social media platform for department updates. We are looking forward to seeing you all again!



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6 TIPS FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT

By Mike DeLio

Ok we all know the basic Run, Hide & Fight...but here are a few additional tips in case you are ever confronted with an active shooter.

1. Stay out of doorways / this is known as the “fatal funnel”.
2. Know basic medical/lifesaving skills (tourniquet/pack a wound) “stop the bleed.”
3. Know the difference between Cover vs. Concealment (being safe from gunfire vs hiding).
4. Know your exits. There should be two ways to escape every room, each taking 10 seconds or less.
5. What does it take for someone to shoot you? Hands & eyes! Use small distractions such as activating sprinklers, use of fire extinguishers, turning on all lights!
6. React, regardless of whether others do or not. That “Golden Minute” (the first 60 seconds of an incident and how you respond) is often the difference between life and death.

Teach your kids: it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to be sure your kids / family know this information. Don't rely on a security guard in the mall to save your family's life. Be a responsible citizen...meaning... be “response – able”.

FINALLY: Do you know that not all shots /sound the same? Handguns, rifles, shotguns, firecrackers, a backfire from a car may all sound the same!

PRACTICE SITUATION AWARENESS. STAY OFF YOUR PHONE. AND PAY ATTENTION!

Interviews from dozens of Active Shooter Survivors attest to one of the most misconceptions: the disbelief and inability to understand or realize they were in a shooting event. (For example, many from the Las Vegas shooting thought it was firecrackers going off for the first 1 to 2 min).

Bottom Line! Be Safe, stay Sharp...and be aware!

